

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-08

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-01 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03
LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 CTME-00 AID-05 SS-15
STR-06 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 SOE-02
OMB-01 DOE-11 /108 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

UNCLAS STATE 014871

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, IN

SUBJECT: INDIAN EMBARGO ON EXPORTS OF TUMERIC

1. AMERICAN SPICE TRADE ASSOCIATION HAS REQUESTED DEPARTMENT'S ASSISTANCE IN RESOLVING TRADE PROBLEM WHICH HAS ARISEN WITH INDIA. INDIANS HAVE REPORTEDLY RECENTLY BANNED ALL EXPORTS OF THE SPICE TUMERIC, FOLLOWING CYCLONE DAMAGE TO TUMERIC CROP. INDIA ANNUALLY GROWS APPROXIMATELY 100,000 TONS OF TUMERIC. U.S. IMPORTS ONLY 1,500 TONS OF PARTICULAR TYPE OF TUMERIC GROWN IN ALLEPPY REGION.

2. WHILE AMOUNT OF IMPORTS NOT GREAT, INDIAN TUMERIC IS ESSENTIAL INGREDIENT IN U.S. MANUFACTURE OF WET MUSTARD AND PICKLES. AT PRESENT, THERE ARE NO KNOWN ACCEPTABLE SUBSTITUTES FOR INDIAN TUMERIC IN THESE TWO INDUSTRIES
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WHICH HAVE ANNUAL SALES OF DOLS. 750 MILLION. TUMERIC FROM OTHER SOURCES DOES NOT HAVE SPECIAL QUALITIES OF ALLEPPY TUMERIC, AND SYNTHETIC SUBSTITUTES NOT FEASIBLE.

3. ACCORDING TO SPICE TRADE ASSOCIATION, EXPORT BAN DECREED ON JANUARY 5 BY MINISTER OF COMMERCE MOHAN DHARIA.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: REQUEST EMBASSY EXPLORE WITH
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE OFFICIALS CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING
EXPORT BAN ON TUMERIC, AND WHETHER SPECIAL WAIVER
MIGHT BE POSSIBLE FOR THE SMALL AMOUNT OF THE SPECIAL TYPE
OF TUMERIC REQUIRED BY U.S. INDUSTRY. CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: DHBURNS:BLO
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Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780144/aaaabkzn.tel
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